United Nations A/58/498

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 107

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 2nd to 6th, 10th and 57th meetings, from 6 to 8 and on 14 October and 26 November 2003. At its 2nd to 6th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 107 jointly with items 105 and 106. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/58/SR.2-6, 10 and 57).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/58/160).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.3/58/SR.2).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the above-mentioned speakers in which the following delegations took part: Switzerland, Egypt, Sudan, Benin, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Canada, Cuba, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Gambia, Pakistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Qatar and Nigeria (see A/C.3/58/SR.2).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.10 and Rev.1

6. At the 10th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/58/L.10), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 57/167 of 18 December 2002 in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and welcomed the preparation by the Programme on Ageing of a road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as its resolution 57/177 of 18 December 2002 in which it stressed, inter alia, the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective,

"*Also recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited the participation of Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in a 'bottom-up' approach to the review and appraisal of the Plan of Action,

"*Further recalling* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in which it agreed to the framework for an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, and reaffirmed the importance of regular review of the commitments undertaken at individual major United Nations conferences and summits,

"*Recognizing* that the Second World Assembly on Ageing is an integral part of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

"*Also recognizing* that, as global demographic change will be most rapid in developing countries where the older population is expected to quadruple during the next fifty years, it is imperative that ageing be integrated into development policies for the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

"*Aware* that the lack of age disaggregated data is an impediment to the consideration of ageing issues and the situation of older persons at both the international and national policy levels,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Takes note also* of the practical framework for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

"3. *Invites* Member States and the United Nations system to incorporate, as appropriate, ageing into actions to achieve the Millennium development goals, in particular Goal 1 on the eradication of poverty;

"4. *Encourages* the establishment of institutional linkages at the national level between national machineries for the advancement of women and those governmental entities responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of ageing-related policies and programmes;

"5. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider the inclusion of ageing in its list of cross-sectoral thematic issues common to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits when it establishes the multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of its substantive session;

"6. *Also requests* the Commission for Social Development to integrate an ageing perspective in its consideration of priority themes related to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development;

"7. *Further requests* the bureaux of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women to further coordinate and collaborate on the issue of older women within the framework of their respective multi-year programmes of work;

"8. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to take up the issue of the periodicity and the format of the review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at its forty-second session, taking into account the provisions of resolution 57/270 B;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by sex and by age on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations to support national efforts, especially those of developing countries, in capacity-building; and in this context, takes note of the establishment by the United Nations of an Internet-accessible database on ageing, and invites States to submit, whenever possible, information for inclusion in the database;

"10. *Requests* United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to take up the issue of integrating ageing in their programmes of work and to report on their progress to the Commission for Social Development;

"11. *Requests* the international financial institutions and the regional development banks to take into account older persons in their policies and projects as part of efforts to assist developing countries in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action;

"12. *Recommends* that the institutional linkages between United Nations focal points on ageing and gender be strengthened in order to enhance the integration of the gender aspects of ageing within the system;

"13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the work of some of the regional commissions in implementing the objectives and recommendations of the Madrid International Plan of Action, and encourages other regional commissions to make progress in this regard;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward his report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-second session, and requests him to make available any other information that may assist the Commission in its deliberations;

"15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

7. At its 57th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.3/58/L.10/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.10. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the 57th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.10/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] and welcomed the preparation by the Programme on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat of a road map for the process of implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as its resolution 57/177 of 18 December 2002, in which it stressed, inter alia, the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective,

Also recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited the participation of Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Further recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in which it agreed to the framework for an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields and reaffirmed the importance of regularly reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the commitments undertaken at individual major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing that the follow-up to and the implementation of the outcome of the Second World Assembly on Ageing is an integral part of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Also recognizing that a tremendous global demographic change is to be expected during the next fifty years, in both developing and developed countries, as well as in countries with economies in transition, and that since this change will be the most rapid in developing countries, where the older population is expected to quadruple over the same period of time, it is therefore imperative that ageing be integrated into development policies for the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[2]

Aware that the lack of data disaggregated by age and sex is an impediment to the consideration of ageing issues and the situation of older persons at both the international and national policy levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

[1] See *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] A/58/160.

2. *Also takes note* of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Invites* Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to incorporate ageing, as appropriate, into actions to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[2] in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty;

4. *Stresses* the need for action at the national and international levels to implement the Madrid Plan of Action,[4] including the need to set national and international priorities and to select appropriate approaches to ensure that countries achieve a society for all ages;

5. *Encourages* the establishment of institutional linkages at the national level between national machineries for the advancement of women and those governmental entities responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of ageing-related policies and programmes;

6. *Stresses* that the role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, is important in supporting Governments in their implementation and assessment of and follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action;

7. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider ageing when elaborating its list of cross-sectoral thematic issues common to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits for the establishment of the multi-year programme of work for the coordination segment of its substantive session;

8. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to integrate an ageing perspective in its consideration of priority themes related to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development;

9. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women to further coordinate and collaborate through their respective bureaux on the issue of older women within the framework of their respective multi-year programmes of work;

10. *Recalls*, in this regard, its request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity while noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report containing recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council on their methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development, and

[4] See *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

recalling that the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Economic and Social Council should report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

11. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to take up the issue of the periodicity and the format of the review of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action at its forty-second session, taking into account the provisions of resolution 57/270 B;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, takes note in this context of the establishment by the United Nations of an Internet-accessible database on ageing, and invites States to submit, whenever possible, information for inclusion in the database;

13. *Requests* the Statistical Commission to assist Member States in developing modalities for disaggregating data by age and sex;

14. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies to integrate ageing, including from a gender perspective, into their programmes of work and to report on their progress to the Commission for Social Development;

15. *Invites* the international financial institutions and the regional development banks to take older persons into account in their policies and projects as part of the effort to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

16. *Recommends* that the institutional linkages between United Nations gender focal points and focal points on ageing be strengthened in order to enhance the integration of the gender aspects of ageing within the system;

17. *Welcomes* the progress made in the work of some of the regional commissions in implementing the objectives and recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action, and encourages other regional commissions to make progress in this regard;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward his report[3] to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-second session and to make available any other relevant information related to this issue that may assist the Commission in its deliberations;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.